

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-08 OMB-01

TRSE-00 COME-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

SP-02 L-03 INRE-00 /065 W

-----105888 031734Z /43

O 031727Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5265

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 04234

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, EAID, BE, CG

SUBJECT: FOLLOW UP ON MOBUTU PLAN SCENARIO

REF: A) STATE 54129 (NOTAL), B) BRUSSELS 3658

1. MOBUTU PLAN SCENARIO AND BELGIAN PLANS FOR POSSIBLE ACTIONS - INCLUDING TRIPS - REMAIN ESSENTIALLY AS REPORTED REF B, SECONDHAND NEW YORK REPORTS NOTWITHSTANDING. FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DEPUTY CHEF DE CABINET ONKELINX REAFFIRMED MARCH 3 THAT THERE IS NO DECISION THAT MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OUTERS OR ANYONE ELSE TO GO TO WASHINGTON. HE STILL THINKS THAT WORKING-LEVEL BELGIAN EXPERTS, RATHER THAN MINISTERS, WOULD BE MORE LIKELY IN THE END TO MAKE THE TRIP (REF B, PARA 2).

2. DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION MARCH 3, ONKELINX MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY OF THE MOBUTU PLAN:
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- BELGIANS ARE AWAITING IMF REACTION TO MOBUTU LETTER DELIVERED THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON BY FOREIGN MINISTER UMBA;

- BELGIANS ARE STILL URGING ZAIRE TO SEND EXPERTS (E.G. BOKANA, BIEME, BOFASSA) TO WASHINGTON TO

SEE THE IMF AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS BANK OF
ZAIRE REORGANIZATION AND THE IMF STABILIZATION PLAN
(REF B, PARA 4).

- BOKANA AND HIS EXPERTS, HOWEVER, HAVE RETURNED
TO KINSHASA TO REPORT TO MOBUTU AND TO REVIEW AND REDRAFT

THE MOBUTU PLAN IN LIGHT OF THE COMMENTS AND CRITICISMS
THAT CAME OUT OF LAST WEEK'S MEETING IN BRUSSELS.
ONKELINX SAID THAT ZAIRE HAS ASKED THE MALDAGUE GROUP
TO COME TO ZAIRE AS SOON AS THE NEXT DRAFT OF THE
MOBUTU PLAN IS READY. HE SAID THERE IS AS YET NO
BELGIAN DECISION ON THAT TRIP BUT THAT HE WOULD NOT
EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOME MEMBERS OF THE
MALDAGUE GROUP WOULD GO TO KINSHASA AND LOOK AT THE NEW
DRAFT.

- ANY BELGIAN TRIP TO WASHINGTON - AT EITHER
MINISTERIAL LEVEL OR WORKING LEVEL - WOULD FOLLOW
AFTER THE HOPED-FOR ZAIRIAN EXPERTS VISIT TO THE IMF.

- ONKELINKS REPEATED THAT THE MALDAGUE GROUP
REPORT BASED ON THE BOKANA MEETINGS WAS BEING PREPARED
FOR SUBMISSION TO THE BELGIAN CABINET SHORTLY AND
THAT THIS COULD LEAD TO GOVERNMENT "DECISIONS AND
ACTIONS" ON THE MOBUTU PLAN. HE AGAIN PROMISED TO
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KEEP US INFORMED.

3. UK EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER (CHAPLIN) TOLD US
MARCH 3 THAT FOREIGN MINISTER UMBA MET IN LONDON
FEBRUARY 23-24 WITH PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN, FOREIGN
SECRETARY OWEN AND MINISTER OF STATE TED ROWLANDS
ON THE MOBUTU PLAN. CHAPLIN SAID THAT UMBA DELIVERED
THE MOBUTU LETTER AND SAID THAT ZAIRE WAS STILL WORKING
ON DETAILS OF THE PLAN WITH THE BELGIANS. CHAPLIN
TOLD US UMBA SAID THAT ZAIRE WOULD NEXT BE IN TOUCH
WITH THE UK "THROUGH THE BELGIANS" ABOUT ATTENDING A
BRUSSELS MEETING OF FRIENDS OF ZAIRE. CHAMBERS

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